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Serial No. 09/665,941

Docket No. P-0124

Reply to the Office Action dated February 25, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multi-media information in which a multi-media is provided from the information provider to users in a user's desired environment, comprising:

setting user preference information for the multi-media information; [[and]]

searching the multi-media information according to the user preference information; and

providing users with generated multi-media information according to the searching result,

wherein the user preference information comprises single item user preference information for single items related to the multi-media information and multiple items user preference information for multiple items formed by combining the single items, and

wherein the multiple items user preference information comprises:

a user preference item identifier which is a combination of single user preference items; and

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an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference of combinations of the user preference item identifiers, said item preference level of the multiple items user preference information being independent of item preference levels for the combined single items.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[8]] Z, wherein the single item user preference information ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a user preference item identifier which denotes the item to describe user's preference; and

an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference to the user preference item identifier.

Claims 10-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[8]] Z, wherein the user preference information is recorded in non-volatile memory of a system installed for the information provider or an information user.

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13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[8]] Z, wherein the user preference information is recorded in a memory of a system installed in portable non-volatile memory.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of providing multi-media information, comprising:

providing a data structure of items;

associating a first weight value to a single one of said items; and

associating a second weight value to a group of a plurality of said items,

wherein said second weight value is assigned based on a user preference information for said group and is independent of the first weight value.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said data structure is a user preference description data structure representative of a multiple item user preference information of multimedia content.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the multi-media information is provided from an information provider to users in a user desired environment.

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17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
setting user preference information for the multi-media information;
searching the multi-media information according to said user preference information; and
providing users with multi-media information according to results of said searching.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said user preference information comprises single item user preference information for single items and multiple items user preference information for a group of multiple items.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said single item user preference information further comprises a user preference item identifier and an item preference level indicator.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said multiple items user preference information further comprises a user preference item identifier and an item preference level indicator.

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21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said searching the multi-media information further comprises:

applying a weight value to said single one of said items;
applying a weight value to said group of a plurality of said items; and
searching the multi-media information depending on an order of priority according to said weight values.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said user preference information is recorded in non-volatile memory of a system installed for an information provider or user.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said user preference information is recorded in a memory of a system installed in portable non-volatile memory.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said items include preference fields comprising at least one of ~~from~~ genre, producer, production date, director, character, and degree of special effects, ~~actor and language~~.

Claims 25-33. (Canceled).

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34. (Currently Amended) A computer accessible multimedia information stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising:

a user preference description data structure representative of a multiple item user preference information of multimedia contents,

wherein the user preference description data structure comprises single item user preference information for single items related to the multimedia information and multiple items user preference information for multiple items formed by combining the single items, and

wherein the multiple items user preference information comprises:

a user preference item identifier which is a combination of single user preference items; and

an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference of combinations of the user preference item identifiers, said item preference level of the multiple items user preference information being independent of item preference levels for the combined single items.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer accessible multimedia information stored on a computer readable storage medium according to claim 34, wherein the single item user preference information comprises:

a user preference item identifier which denotes the item to describe user preference; and

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an item preference level indicating the degree of user preference, corresponding to the user preference of the user preference item identifier,

wherein the item preference level is one of levels divided into a plurality of levels between levels preferred by a user and levels not preferred by the user.

36. (Canceled).

37. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the item preference level of the multiple items user preference information is different than a sum of the preference values of the combined single item user preference information.

38. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the second weight value is different than a sum of first weights of the group of the plurality of the items.

39. (New) The computer accessible multimedia information stored on a computer readable storage medium according to claim 34, wherein the item preference level of the multiple items user preference information is different than a sum of item preference levels of the combined single items.

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